

## Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

----- 005916

P R 082126Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS QUITO 5810

FOR: IOP/M

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: "THEY DID IT FIRST"

1. COLUMNIST ALFREDO PAREJA DIEZCANSECO OF EL COMERCIO, LEADING QUITO DAILY, CRITICIZED THE CIA IN AN EDITORIAL COLUMN AUGUST 8 HEADLINED "THEY DID IT FIRST." BLOCK QUOTES FOLLOW:

2. "IN THE FACE OF REVEALED CIA OPERATIONS, A WAVE OF INDIGNATION GREW

IN THE WORLD. THEN, IN THE COUNTRIES WHERE NAMES APPEARED OF WELL-KNOWN PERSONS WHO SERVED IN ESPIONAGE, SADNESS MIXED WITH INDIGNATION. NOW, ALTHOUGH THE INSTITUTIONS ARE APPLAUDED THAT PERMIT AND STIMULATE INVESTIGATION IN THOSE SECRET ACTIVITIES, THE REACTION IS ONE OF NAUSEA AND OF UNEASINESS BECAUSE OF THE LIMITS TRANSGRESSED BY HUMAN UGLINESS, TIED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO THE APPARENT INEXORABILITY OF WAR, IN SPITE OF SUMMIT CONFERENCES AND THE TRANSITORY RELIEF OF TENSIONS THEY PRODUCE.

3. "REGARDING THE CRIME, NOW OPENLY ADMITTED, OF VIOLATION OF CORRESPONDENCE, IN SAN FRANCISCO ALONE DURING 1971 AND 1973 13,000 LETTERS WERE OPENED, CERTAINLY COMING FROM CONTINENTAL CHINA. IN OTHER CITIES, LETTERS FROM THE SOVIET UNION, NORTH VIET NAM, CUBA AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WERE CONTROLLED. INCLUDED IN THIS SAD MINUTIA IS A NOTE OF HUMOR: THE CHIEF OF THE CIA REPORTS

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THAT ONCE, ON USING CERTAIN CHEMICAL PRODUCTS IN THE OPERATION, IT

WAS LEARNED THAT A GREAT NUMBER OF ENVELOPES HAD ALREADY RECEIVED  
THE SAME CHEMICAL TREATMENT IN THE SAME COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.  
POINTING A FINGER, THEY SAY HE EXCLAIMED: 'HEAVENS, THEY DID IT FIRST  
."

4. "WHICH CERTAINLY IS UNIMPORTANT. THESE ARE LEFTOVERS, NOTHING  
MORE, OF THE DISEASE OF BELLIGERANCE, INFILTRATED INTO THE BLOOD OF  
MAN. ESPIONAGE, INTERVENTION IN FRIENDLY OR UNFRIENDLY COUNTRIES,  
PLOTS, ENCOURAGEMENT OF CORRUPTION, THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF  
CONSCIENCES, ARE NOTHING OTHER THAN STEPS TOWARD THE GREAT IMORALITY  
OF WAR, TO THE UNCONSCIOUS DESIRE TO SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS WITH A  
TOTAL SIMPLIFICATION, RESORTING TO THE ABSOLUTE ZERO, THE NOTHINGNESS

OF BRUTALITY."  
BELL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, ESPIONAGE, ALLEGATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 24 FEB 2003  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THEY DID IT FIRST  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EC, US, XX, CIA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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